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# Newsletter

**Number 09**

**5 April 2013**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

## Thanks

.. To those who have committed to supporting our school netball and hockey teams this year as coaches or managers. This commitment of time and energy is very much appreciated.  
.. To Parents helping and supporting the children with the Triathlon today...a big day at Kai Iwi!  
.. To those children and parents attending the cross laying service in town on Saturday.  
.. To parents for payment of school contributions and events fees. We realise that finances can become stretched at times and are grateful that so many families have managed to pay their fees. Our job is to use these financial contributions wisely and in ways which add maximum value to our programmes. If you have not yet managed to pay your fee please note that a 10% discount applies on contributions (for the full year) paid before the end of this term. Any questions please contact Helen.

## People of the Week

.. Tremarn who recently went out of his way to connect a student with a missing piece of art work. Well done Tremarn .. you greatly impressed this student's mother.  
.. Angus who achieved eleventh place in the NZ 12 year old boys' BMX Championship at Cambridge over Easter. Angus has qualified to represent NZ at the World Champs. Well done Angus!  
.. Xanthe who achieved second place (silver medal) in the Tricks Event at the recent Skiing Nationals .. and well done Max for your contribution to winning the team shield for Northland for the fourth year running. We are proud of you both!  
.. Jacob and Hunter for being very supportive when their friend was hurt.

## School Duathlon Challenge

This annual challenge will take place as follows:

Tuesday 9 April - Individual Event

Friday 12 April - Teams event

- Children must have helmets and bikes here on Monday ready for a walk round. They can then be left at school for the week
- One child per team to have a bike organised.

The event starts at 12:35, please feel welcome to come and support your child.

## Term Events

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

9 April	Meeting of Board of Trustees
19 April	Final day term 1
6 May	Commencement term 2

### Forthcoming Board Elections

If interested in what being on a Board of Trustees involves you might like to visit [www.trustee-election.co.nz](http://www.trustee-election.co.nz)

### Board Election Timeline

15 April	Nominations called for
30 April	Roll closed. Supplementary roll open for inspection
6 May	Nominations close
14 May	Supplementary Roll closes
16 May	Closing date for nominations (mid-day)
21 May	Voting papers issued
30 May	Poll closes / election day
5 June	Results announced
6 June	New Board takes office

### School Trustee Election Brochure

Please find attached a brochure intended for those interested in becoming trustees.

### Literacy Labs

Labs started last week. These will be held in Room 2 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. If you have registered your child for these labs please ensure they are in attendance as we have a limited number of sessions. If you have any queries please contact Kevin.

### Child Disability Allowance

Some of you may not be aware that parents may be entitled to a Disability Allowance for children who require constant attention and supervision substantially in excess of that normally required of a child their age .. especially if the needs are physical ones. This allowance is not income tested and needs the endorsement of your GP. Forms are available from WINZ.

### Fundraising parent Helper Form

It seems that newsletters do not always get to their intended destination and that some families may not have received a form issued earlier this term asking parents to consider committing to ONE fund-raising event each year. This form is a response to parent requests in earlier years' to do our best to ensure the fund-raising burden is shared as fairly (and widely) as possible. It also means that parents get to choose what they are happy (or not happy) to be involved in. **If you did not return your form please find attached a second form for completion and return please by the end of this term.** Any questions please to Sharon Smith on the Board of Trustees.

### Learning Support Programmes - Mrs Comrie

Parents of children currently in one of Mrs Comrie's programmes are advised that these programmes will roll over into (at least) the first 4 weeks of term 2. This will give these students a little more time to consolidate their learning. Any questions to Mrs Comrie please. We will assume parental consent for this roll-over unless we hear from you to the contrary next week.

### International Schools English and Mathematics Competitions

Registration forms were sent home two weeks ago with those children who expressed interest or who indicated that their parents wished them to be involved. If you did not receive a form, and would like one, please contact our school office next week. **Forms and registration fees are due back at school no later than 8 April ... please note that registrations will not be accepted after this date.**

Please don't hesitate to contact Kevin (or your child's teacher) with any questions.

A reminder that year 8 students ..

- .. are automatically enrolled in the Maths Competition
- .. are not required to pay a registration fee for the maths (although will need to pay for the English Competition)
- .. are not eligible for the After School Maths Labs



### School Fire Alarms

May be further tested over the weekend and so don't be "alarmed" by this.

**Scholastic Book Club – Issue 2** – All orders and payments to the office by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Scabies / Headlice / School Sores etc**

Occasionally the school is advised of the occurrence of health problems of an infectious nature. We do not issue a general advice to parents unless we suspect the school is the source of the problem and/or that a significant number of children are affected. If you advise, and we do not follow with a general notice in the newsletter, this is not because we think the matter is unimportant. We encourage parents to keep us informed of any infectious health matters so we can monitor the size of the problem and plan an appropriate action. Thanks to those who have "kept us in the loop".

### **Public Health Nurses**

... Becky Butel and Joolz Jones are available to assist parents with any health matters. They can be contacted on 021 272 2991 or at [rebecca.butel@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:rebecca.butel@northlanddhb.org.nz) or [Julie.dones@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:Julie.dones@northlanddhb.org.nz)

### **Wacky PJ Day**

The school council are holding a Wacky PJ Day! Come in your coolest pyjamas, with your wacky hair, and you will be in to win a prize! This event is to be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, and you will need a gold coin donation to enter; all proceeds are going towards Junior and Senior Discos. There will be more info at assembly.

### **Changes on the staffing front**

Many parents will be aware that Mrs Gunson and Mrs Burgin have been on maternity leave. We are now in a position to advise that **Mrs Gunson will be returning from maternity leave to commence teaching in room 10 from the beginning of term 2.**

We can also advise **Mrs Burgin will also return at the beginning of term 2 to work in a support / release role mainly in the junior school. Mrs Burgin will also be responsible for co-ordinating special needs programmes across the school.**

### **Mrs Greenfield**

The board would like to sincerely thank Mrs Greenfield for the excellent job that she has done in room 10 this term. Mrs Greenfield has worked diligently to establish some sound foundations in this room and has made a positive contribution to the wider school.

### **Forthcoming Elections**

Without a doubt the discretionary powers of Boards of Trustees have been steadily eroding since their inception over 20 years ago. Successive governments have, rightly or wrongly, appropriated powers formerly allocated to boards in an effort to shape the direction of public education and oversee the spending of public funds. Nevertheless, Boards remain an important part of the fabric of education in this country. Good boards can add considerable value to schools. Matarau School has been blessed with high quality boards, peopled by parents with the ability to think beyond their own children to the wider good ... people who are able to work in partnership with teachers (and each other) ... people willing to grapple with matters that are much more complex than they seem to be to a casual observer.

I do not believe it is the role of the principal or staff to be involved in recommending one trustee candidate over another – although occasionally we get asked. It is our job to work constructively with those people who have the trust of their community. I am happy, however, to offer some thoughts on what I consider (after quite a few years in this job) makes exceptional trustees truly exceptional. I hope that some of you might give these matters consideration in making your choices ..

- .. exceptional trustees realise they represent not only their children but the wider body of children
- .. exceptional trustees respect and value the teaching (and non-teaching) staff and are committed to working in partnership with them
- .. exceptional trustees put the time in to truly understand issues and accept that things may not always be as they seem at first glance
- .. exceptional trustees know the meaning of the word discretion and jealously guard the privacy of all students, staff and their families
- .. exceptional trustees understand the difference between governance and day to day management
- .. exceptional trustees take time to be informed before they take a position and are able to balance (and sometimes affirm) the diversity of views characteristic of any parent community

Yes it is possible to be all of these things (with diligent effort) as many past trustees testify. I wish you well in making this important decision and thank, in advance, those brave enough to put their names forward.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**To Rent** - Sunny, warm, fully carpeted 3 dbl bdrm house to rent in Dip Rd. Large private deck, small easy care section, sgl gg plus extra parking for two, sep bath and shower, good storage. 5mins from Matarau sch. Walk to Kamo High and Intermediate. Medical centre and Kindy 200m, Hurupaki primary, Sports grounds 50m. Avail Easter \$325pw. Phone Hana 4350230 or 0274-352786.

**Wanted** – any house to rent, 2-3 bedroom, Matarau area. Phone Sylvia 0220965463.

**Flatmate Wanted** – 1 room to rent in Hikurangi \$80 per wk (negotiable) + power. You can have the use of the garage too. I'm a nightshift person, so I'll see you in the weekends. You'll have to cook for yourself. Phone Glenis 0220337812.

**Rugby Players Wanted** – for Hikurangi JB1, 7 & 8 yr olds. Training bottom field, Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm, Phone Eddie 0212427112.

**Wanted** – Old rotary hoe engine, required for a High School student technology project. If you can help please contact Helen on 02102328094.

**Help your Child to Learn** - A course for parents, Tuesdays 21 and 28 May, 7 - 9pm. FREE. Hosted by SLD Whangarei and Community Education Whangarei (CEW). Held at Kamo High School. The course will look at some of the reasons why children have difficulties with their schoolwork, and consider practical ways parents can offer home support. Bring your friends. Any questions please contact the SLD Whangarei office on 430 0693 or email the office at [sldwhang@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sldwhang@xtra.co.nz)

**Hurupaki Educare Holiday Programme** – Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr to Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Hurupaki School Hall, Kamo, 8.00am to 5.30pm. Fun, daily activities along with 3 outside visits. The programme is OSCAR accredited, WINZ assistance available – conditions apply. Discounts for two or more children from the one family. For further information go to [www.schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz](http://www.schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz), or contact Christin on 0274-821331 or [info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz](mailto:info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz)



A visit from Classic Hits Radio Station. Rylee Dodds nominated Room 7 for the Breakfast in Schools Competition and won a free breakfast pack for the whole class.